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THE POT BOILS

Fight Over Mayoralty Nomination in Both Big Parties Grows Hotter as It Closes

Deneen Out in a Scathing Arraignment of Merriam and His Manager, Harold L. Ickes

The political leaders are boiling with the heat of battle, in both the Republican and Democratic camps. Ex-Governor Deneen, who is for Olson for mayor, goes out after Harold Ickes, Merriam's chief of staff, and says:

"Captain Merriam's attitude has prevented the uniting of the opposition to the mayor. Captain Merriam himself called upon me and asked me to exert whatever influence I had with our organization to make him a candidate of the two groups. I have been informed that he likewise called upon Attorney General Brundage. A committee representing Captain Merriam called upon me thereafter and renewed the request. Captain Merriam's candidacy was carefully considered by the two organizations but Judge Olson was considered the stronger candidate."

"That the public may know some of the difficulties we have had, I may state that on the 5th of February I was requested, about 3:30 in the afternoon, to meet Edgar A. Bancroft and a number of his friends at 4 o'clock. At that time it was stated by Mr. Bancroft that Captain Merriam would agree to withdraw as a candidate provided Judge Olson would withdraw, and the statement was made by Mr. Bancroft that Captain Merriam would support Judge Landis for nomination."

"I told them that if Judge Landis would agree to accept the nomination I would go at once to Judge Olson and his committee and submit the matter. Mr. Bancroft called Mr. Ickes on the telephone and in a few moments said that Judge Landis would not accept the nomination. I had been informed many weeks ago, when Judge Landis' name was first mentioned, that he would not accept the nomination. Then the names of Alexander Revell and Ald. A. A. McCormick were suggested as compromise candidates by Mr. Bancroft and his friends. I requested Mr. Bancroft to communicate with Mr. Ickes, which he did, and asked whether or not Captain Merriam would withdraw for either of these gentlemen. After telephonic communication with Mr. Ickes Mr. Bancroft stated that Captain Merriam would withdraw for neither Mr. Revell nor Mr. McCormick."

"I then requested Mr. Bancroft to

have Captain Merriam name five gentlemen for any of whom he would withdraw as a compromise candidate; that I would submit their names to Judge Olson and his committee. Mr. Ickes' office was called up and Mr. Bancroft made the statement that he had been informed that Captain Merriam would not suggest the names of any persons for whom he would withdraw. This ended the matter. Mr. Ickes, it should be remembered, does not live in Chicago. His home is in Hubbard Woods. Why is he so concerned?

"I might add as a sidelight to our meeting that I suggested to Mr. Bancroft, who spoke for Mr. Ickes, that the city clerk had announced that he would not receive petitions for nomination after 5 o'clock on Feb. 5, which was the last day for filing, and that it would be impossible to get up a petition for a compromise candidate for mayor within an hour. I was informed that Roger Sullivan had been communicated with and that Mr. Sullivan had assured them that the city clerk would keep his office open until midnight to receive the petition for the compromise candidate."

"In connection with this matter the public will remember that Donald Richberg, who is the special attorney for the city of Chicago against the gas company, is the law partner of Mr. Ickes."

THOMPSON'S RECORD

Mayor Thompson's campaign committee has issued what it calls "the public ledger," in which is recorded on opposite pages the "debts" and "credits" of the Thompson administration. On the debit side are set down the "obligations, hardships and adverse conditions" to be met and overcome. The debits include the following items:

"To a 45 per cent increase in cost of labor.
"To a reduction of 14 per cent in taxes received.
"To an increase of over 200,000 in population.
"To an increase in the street lighting required.
"To a shortage of 25 per cent in man power available.
"To an increase of many miles of

sewerage required.
"To the most vicious traction ordinance ever proposed to a community.
"To a corruption fund used in attempting to pass same.
"To a public utilities commission, operated by the state, obstructing local self-government."

city employees.
"By strict and impartial enforcement of the law.
"By widening 12th street, after 12 years' delay.
"By an honest, constructive and economical administration.
"By running the city government at less cost per person than ever before.
"By new pumping station completed, with 1,000,000 gallons of water per day capacity.
"By veto of vicious traction ordinance, and veto being sustained by vote of the people.
"By fighting increased car fares before public utilities commission and in the courts.
"By fighting increased gas bills and seeking to force return of gas rebates due consumers.
"By demanding laws for imprisonment of food speculators and manipulators of food prices.
"By construction of Michigan boulevard link, begun after 18 years' delay.
"By settlement of building trades, street car and other strikes, resulting in increased wages to labor and improved working conditions."

CAREY FOR SUBWAYS

Thomas Carey, Democratic candidate for Mayor, proposed to the City Council that an ordinance be enacted providing for the building of thirty-five miles of city owned and operated

ROBS POOR MAN

City Council Votes to More Than Double the Taxes on Small Home Owners and Others

Eager Desire to Double Salaries of Political Pets Is the Main Cause for This Bald Injustice

Chicago real estate is to carry a heavy and unjust burden.
The bottom has been knocked out of the real estate market in Chicago. Small home owners will suffer especially.
On Tuesday the council finance committee recommended to the council

the added patrolmen, but has not yet acted on the pay increases.
Mayor Thompson did not participate in any of the discussion on the tax rate question. The council had been in session but a few minutes when he asked to be excused to attend to other duties. Ald. John A. Richert, chairman of the finance committee, presided.

Ald. U. S. Schwartz led the attack against the proposed \$2 rate. He succeeded in winning a majority of the aldermen to favor his proposition of asking the legislature to boost the corporate fund's share of the tax rate to give the city the money it needs for all activities, instead of making a rate based on recommendations made by the civic organizations.
"It looks ridiculous to go on record as voting for the \$2 rate when we all know it is not enough," said Ald. George F. Hilt.

"This looks as if we might have to close up the playgrounds and use the money for other salaries," said Ald. Edward F. Cullerton.

"We need 1,000 additional patrolmen," said Ald. Hilt, "and the civic organizations made a poor showing in declaring against them."

"I will vote for the budget the committee thinks is right," said Ald. John Toman. "I don't want any recommendations from the efficiency bureau. Harris S. Keeler, the director, is a bunk artist. He thinks a married man can keep a family on \$53 a month. That's what he thinks of city employees. His boss, Julius Rosenwald, gives a million dollars to charity and then lays off a lot of poor devils to help pay the bill."

"These civic organizations represent the taxpayers," said Ald. A. A. McCormick, "and we have to have

their help to get relief. Mayor Thompson has not come before the committee to aid in this and we have had no help from any executive of his cabinet. The mayor and the department heads ought to go to the legislature and ask for relief, and the council should not be required to do this."

"We need the extra police, and the city employees surely are entitled to pay increases," said Ald. Schwartz. "Look at our street cleaning problem. The garbage was piled up high in alleys until Thompson started to run for re-election. Now the administration is spending money right and left. Why was this left unattended until primary time? We can't get along as we should on a \$2 rate."

"How does this efficiency bureau propose to take \$1,000,000 in street cleaning work?" asked Ald. T. F. Byrne. "Will it be taken from the wages of workmen? If the organized employees don't get increases they will quit. Are tax-dodgers placed above the working men?"

WEBB FOR SWEITZER

Thomas J. Webb, president of the Publ-Webb company, and former member of the Board of Review, who was a rival of Robert M. Sweitzer for the support of the Democratic organization, has endorsed the Democratic candidate for mayor, Mr. Webb pointed out that Mr. Sweitzer was the only candidate who had any genuine business experience and was equipped to put the administration of the city's affairs upon a business basis.



FRANK JOHNSTON, JR.
Popular Judge of the Circuit Court.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Work of Illinois Lawmaking Body

Flat repeal of all existing ordinances affecting the movies is proposed in a bill offered in the senate by Senator Buck of Monmouth, that is to be pressed for immediate consideration. It is understood that the bill carries the approval of the Illinois Federation of Women's clubs and that it will not be opposed radically by the "movie" men.

The bill places control of all moving pictures within the supervision of the department of registration and education, under the provisions of the administrative code. If it becomes a statute, it will eliminate, on Oct. 1, 1919, all city and village ordinances of local censorship.

The Senate passed the bill introduced in that body by Senator Kessinger to establish a system of vocational education in Illinois and to

enable this state to receive the benefits offered by the Smith-Hughes federal law. The bill was passed without opposition by a vote of 36 to 0. In the House a similar bill introduced by Representative Church was favorably reported by the committee on education. From present indications there is no reason to doubt that the necessary legislation will be obtained by March 8, which marks the limit of time within which action must be taken in order to get the benefits conferred by the Smith-Hughes act.

The Kessinger bill, like the Church bill, carries an appropriation of about \$400,000, so that as the state will be entitled to receive a like sum from the federal treasury, there will probably be about \$800,000 available for vocational training in the public schools during the next two years.

The Senate judiciary committee has reported out favorably Senator Cornwell's bill to create a state council of reconstruction, re-employment and relief, whose duty it will be to aid returning soldiers and sailors to secure work. The fifteen members of the council are to serve without pay.

"To a loss in revenue from saloon licenses of over \$2,500,000.

"To a hostile majority in the city council under domination of the Municipal Voters' League.

"To a libelous press indulging in daily misrepresentations and assaults upon character and reputation."

The "credits" include the following:
"By a decrease in crime of 32 per cent.
"By a decrease in fire losses of 23 per cent.
"By purification of Chicago's water supply.

"By a decrease in the death rate of 36 per cent.
"By a large increase in number of street lights.
"By many miles of new streets and sidewalks built.
"By many miles of new sewers and water mains built.
"By increasing wages of underpaid

subways. He would use the city's \$25,000,000 traction fund.

Th communication was referred to the committee on local transportation. Carey, in his letter, says the work could be performed by city labor for \$1,000,000 per mile instead of an estimated \$2,000,000.

He estimates that the traction fund will be increased \$10,000,000 within the next mayoralty term, and with the amount now in the fund sufficient money would be available for constructing tubes extending out into the three divisions of the city.

Cars for the subways would be owned by the city and city employees would operate them.

Men of all parties favor the election of George B. Holmes as Municipal Judge.

Dennis J. Egan is doing great work for Sweitzer's nomination.

oil that the legislature be asked to make the 80 cent boost for the corporate fund. The committee, prior to the time the civic organization came into the budget matter, recommended the boost be \$1.65 per \$100 of assessed valuation, making the corporate fund's share of the taxes \$2.75 per \$100 instead of \$1.10.

The \$2.75 rate would allow the municipality to finance a budget providing for expenditures of upward of \$35,000,000. It would mean 1,000 additional patrolmen for the police department and pay raises for all city employees.

Under the \$2 rate, which is made up of the \$1.10 and the special taxes for playgrounds and judgments, which total another 10 cents per \$100, the budget is cut from \$35,000,000 to \$28,000,000. The civic organizations recommended against the additional patrolmen and the pay increases. The committee agreed to eliminate

IN THE CITY COUNCIL

Important Public Business Before the Chicago Board of Aldermen

A subcommittee of the city council committee on public health, accompanied by Health Commissioner Robertson, visited three large cold storage plants to ascertain if the city should lessen the time periods for food storage and if this would bring down prices for meats and products.

Ald. Olson, Kunz, Kostner and Moran constitute the subcommittee. The plants visited agreed to furnish figures showing the amount of products in storage each month.

Since 1917, when the federal food administration took charge of the food situation, the city has not been active in this regulation.

At one of Swift & Co's warehouses the aldermen found 25,000,000 pounds of meat in storage. It was explained this represented only two days' output for the company.

The Ogden avenue improvement, costing an estimated \$4,649,000 for land and buildings, was approved by the city council. The preliminary work can now proceed.

After the session County Judge Scully said he would push the project, if the special assessment case is filed in his court. If that is done the actual work can begin in September. The extension of Ogden avenue from Union to Lincoln park was recommended by the Chicago Plan commission in December, 1916.

The council approval was given by a vote of 46 to 8, with eleven aldermen absent or missing.

An amendment to the ordinance requiring all places of public amusement, "wet" or "dry," to close at 1 o'clock a. m. was recommended by the city council license committee.

The amendment provides that the city collector shall allow each reputable social, fraternal, educational or charitable organization to hold one

dance each year until 3 o'clock in the morning. There was no question of the sale of intoxicants.

The committee also recommended that returning sailors and soldiers holding city chauffeurs' licenses be granted renewals without cost.

The annual appropriation bill must be passed before March 31, so the legislature will have to act before then if the city is to have financial relief.

The council recommended a bill for the legislature to enlarge the city's licensing powers. This would allow the city to charge license fees for various businesses it now has no power over.

The council considered an ordinance charging pawnbrokers a yearly license fee of \$500 each. The court knocked out an ordinance making this fee \$1,000 per year.

Resolutions were adopted deploring the deaths of former Ald. Luther P. Friedstedt and August Krumholz.

A communication from the Chicago Building Trades council asked that the limitation on the height of buildings be taken off. The ordinance now limit buildings to 200 feet in height. The communication stated that many prospective builders wanted to exceed this, and that this would be one of the ways of meeting the unemployment problem. The communication was referred to the building committee.

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